

Acting United States Attorney James R. Klindt Middle District of Florida

CONTACT: STEVE COLE

PHONE: (813) 274-6136

FAX: (813) 274-6300

Orlando Jacksonville Tampa Fort Myers

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HOLIDAY MAN ENTERS PLEA OF GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Tampa, Florida - Acting United States Attorney James R. Klindt announced that RANDY PANNABECKER, age 25, of Holiday, Florida, entered a plea of guilty today to possession of child pornography. He entered that plea before United States Magistrate Judge Elizabeth A. Jenkins to a charge in a criminal information filed against him on June 4, 2007.

According to court documents, PANNABECKER paid for access to a web site which advertised that it contained child pornography. He accessed that web site through the Internet from a computer in his home. When agents interviewed him at his home, PANNABECKER acknowledged receiving images through the Internet containing minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. When federal agents examined the contents of his computer, they found a number of images depicting minors involved in sexually explicit conduct.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a national initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information on Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay L. Hoffer of the Special Prosecutions Section in the Tampa Division.